

# Transgender Persons Receiving Prevention Services from AIDS Institute Funded Agencies in New York State

## A Descriptive Analysis of Transgender Clients from the AIDS Institute Reporting System (AIRS)

### Introduction and Background

- The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute (AI) is supported by over \$80 million in state and federal funds to provide prevention services to persons at risk for acquiring HIV.
- AI-funded providers are required to enter agency, client, and service-level data into a statewide database referred to as the AIDS Institute Reporting System (AIRS).
- Data from AIRS used for this report include 3,314 transgender (TG) persons who received services between July 1, 2014 and December 31, 2016.
- This includes 793 TG males (24.2%) and 2,521 TG females (75.8%) from 86 AI-funded agencies across New York State.
- Nineteen of these agencies are also funded under the AI's LGBT Health and Human Services initiative to provide non-HIV related support services to LGBT individuals.
- Gender identity was determined by self-report (n=3,238) and when current gender identity differed from the sex assigned at birth (n=76).
- Due to current data collection categories, the degree to which gender non-conforming persons are included in these data are not known.

### Results

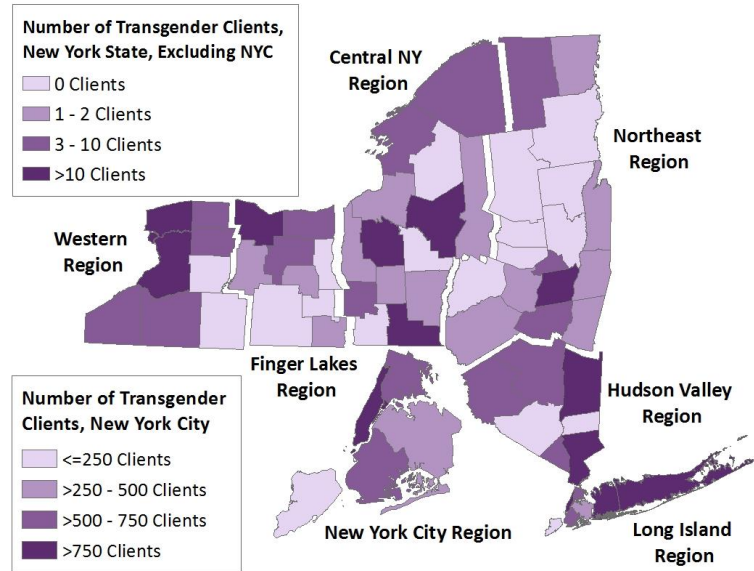
Table 1: Age, Race/Ethnicity, and HIV Status, by Gender Identity

Characteristic	No.	Pct TG Male	No.	Pct TG Female	No.	Pct Total
<b>Age Group:</b>						
<18 Years	55	6.9%	27	1.1%	82	2.5%
19-24 Years	312	39.3%	695	27.6%	1,007	30.4%
25-34 Years	283	35.7%	984	39.1%	1,267	38.3%
35-44 Years	79	10.0%	399	15.9%	478	14.4%
45+ Years	64	8.1%	411	16.3%	475	14.4%
<b>Race/Ethnicity:</b>						
Hispanic/Latino(a)	186	23.5%	1,067	42.3%	1,253	37.8%
Black	175	22.1%	893	35.4%	1,068	31.7%
White	376	47.4%	420	17.2%	796	24.5%
Asian	42	4.9%	74	2.9%	116	3.5%
NA/AN*	10	1.2%	28	1.2%	38	1.2%
NH/PI*	1	0.1%	13	0.6%	14	0.4%
Some Other Race	3	0.4%	26	1.0%	29	0.9%
<b>HIV Status:</b>						
HIV Positive	587	5.3%	1,778	19.8%	2,365	16.4%
HIV Negative	23	94.7%	440	80.2%	463	83.6%

\* NA/AN = Native American/Alaska Native; NH/PI = Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

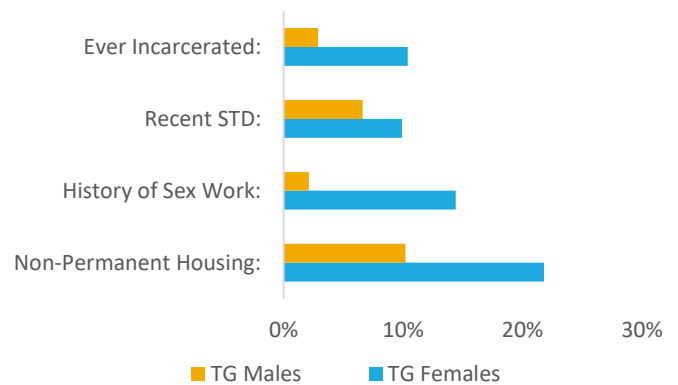
<TG males were overwhelmingly younger than TG females, while TG females were more racially/ethnically diverse and roughly 4 times as likely to be HIV positive than TG males.

Transgender Clients, By County, New York State



<TG clients resided in 47 of 62 (75.8%) NYS counties, with the largest number of individuals living in Erie, Niagara, Monroe, Onondaga, Oneida, Broome, Albany, Dutchess, Westchester, Nassau, Suffolk, and the five counties that comprise New York City.

Chart 1: Age, Race/Ethnicity, and HIV Status, by Gender Identity



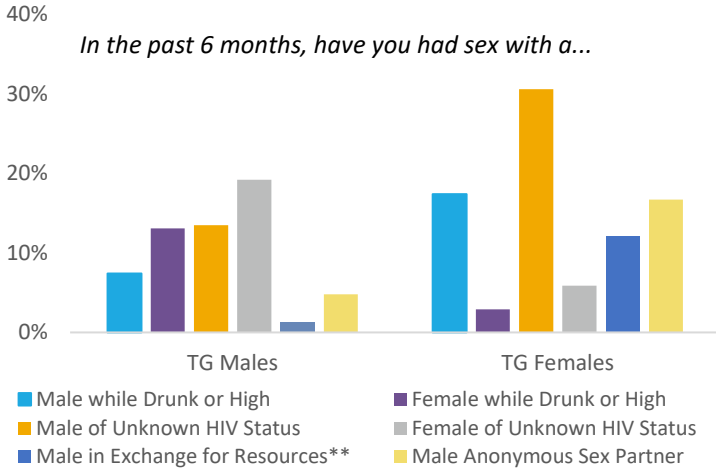
\* Associations are statistically significant at p<0.001

<TG females were significantly more likely to report ever being incarcerated, a recent STD, history of sex work, and having non-permanent housing.

### Most Common Services Delivered to TG Clients:

- 1) Group-level interventions
- 2) Client-centered, one-on-one Supportive Counseling
- 3) Individual-level interventions
- 4) Comprehensive Risk Counseling and Referral Services
- 5) HIV Testing
- 6) Harm Reduction

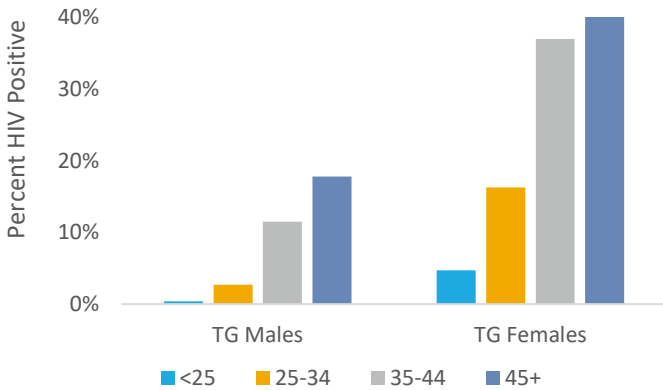
**Chart 2: Sexual Behaviors, by Gender Identity\***



\* Associations are statistically significant at  $p < 0.001$   
 \*\* Resources may include money, drugs, housing, etc.

*<Chart 2 displays self-reported sexual behaviors among TG males and females in the previous 6 months.*

**Chart 3: HIV Status by Age Group and Gender Identity\***



\* Association is statistically significant at  $p < 0.001$

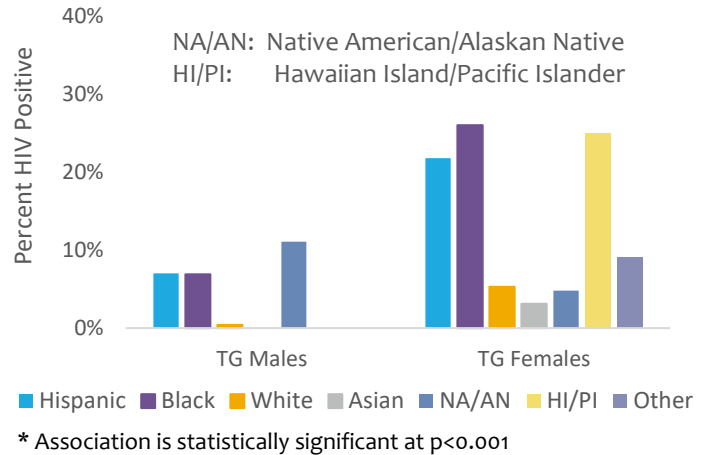
*<There was a statistically significant, upward, linear trend between age group and HIV status among TG males and females, such that clients were more likely to be HIV positive as age increased.*

**Data Collection and HIV Transmission Risk\***

The available categories for HIV transmission risk group and sexual orientation have been a source of concern in the LGBTQ community. For reporting purposes, NYS is required to adhere to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention’s transmission risk categories, which include MSM, MSM/IDU, IDU, heterosexual, and high-risk heterosexual. For many LGBT and TG persons, these categories do not conform to their potential or actual risk behaviors. Subsequently, 62% of TG males and 21% of TG females were categorized as “not acknowledged” or “other risk” for this item. Meanwhile, TG Females were most likely to be categorized as MSM (62%), which does not necessarily reflect their transmission risk behavior(s). In fact, many TG males who have sex with women, and TG females who have sex with men, identify themselves as heterosexual.

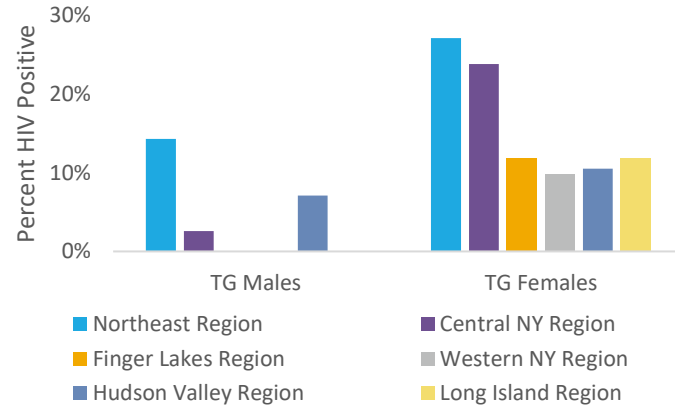
\*Transmission risk is determined by an algorithm based on responses to questions about gender identity and sexual behavior.

**Chart 4: HIV Status by Race/Ethnicity and Gender Identity\***



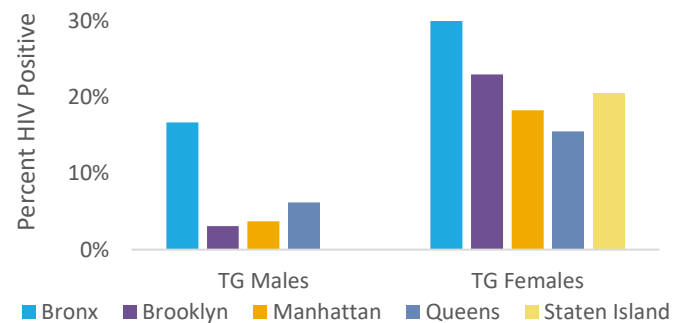
\* Association is statistically significant at  $p < 0.001$   
*<Chart 4 displays HIV status by race/ethnicity, indicating that Hispanic and black TG males and females had among the highest HIV prevalence compared to other racial or ethnic subgroups.*

**Chart 5: HIV status by New York State Region and Gender Identity\***



\* Association is statistically significant at  $p < 0.001$ ;  $n = 792$

**Chart 6: HIV status by New York City Borough and Gender Identity\***



\* Association is statistically significant at  $p < 0.001$ ;  $n = 2,352$

*<Charts 5 and 6, above show HIV status by region in NYS.*

The AI is aware that many in the community prefer the term Transgender/Gender Non-Conforming. Discussions are currently taking place within the NYSDOH to identify strategies and methods for data collection that are more sensitive to, and inclusive of, TG persons receiving services in NYS, including gender non-conforming persons.